

Message Text

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S E C R E T JAKARTA 6207

NODIS

FOR EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR MASTERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), ID

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MURDANI ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE VICE
PRESIDENT'S VISIT

1. GENERAL BENNY MURDANI CAME TO SEE ME MAY 11 TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOW-UP TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT. MURDANI SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE VISIT IN DETAIL WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS "EXHUBERANT" ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT. HE WAS PARTICULARLY GLAD THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD SOME SPECIFIC DECISIONS, ESPECIALLY ON THE IRS PROBLEM, EXPORT TO THE U.S. OF LNG AND THE SALE OF A-4S.

2. REGARDING THE DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BETWEEN THE VICE PRESIDENT AND SUHARTO, MURDANI SAID IT WOULD ACTUALLY BE EASIER FROM A LOGISTICAL STANDPOINT TO RELEASE THE 10,000 PKI/GESTAPU DEETAINEES THIS YEAR ALL AT ONE TIME. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT SUHARTO "HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS" THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN A PHASED MANNER AND "WE WILL DO IT". MURDANI CONFIRMED OTHER REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED THAT GOI PLANNING IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED TO SAY EXACTLY WHEN THESE PHASED RELEASES MIGHT BEGIN.

3. ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ADMITTING PERSONNEL FROM A PRIVATE

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VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION, SUCH AS THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE, INTO EAST TIMOR, MURDANI SAID IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAD LAID DOWN TWO CRITERIA. FIRST, ANY ORGANIZATION PERMITTED TO SEND PERSONNEL INTO EAST TIMOR MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THAT AREA IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF INDONESIA. SECONDLY, SUHARTO QUESTIONED WHY THESE ORGANIZATIONS COULD NOT WORK THROUGH THEIR LOCAL COUNTERPARTS RATHER THAN SENDING THEIR OWN

PEOPLE IN DIRECTLY. MURDANI SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE BENEFITS IN TERMS OF INDONESIA'S IMAGE ABROAD IN ADMITTING OUTSIDERS. HE COULD MAKE NO FIRM COMMITMENT AT THE MOMENT, BUT WOULD DO HIS BEST TO WORK THIS OUT. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME PROBLEMS IN REMOVING THE PRESENT GOVERNOR, WHO IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS OPPOSITION TO THE ADMISSION OF FOREIGNERS INTO THE AREA, BUT THAT THIS HAS NOW BEEN RESOLVED. MURDANI EXPECTS A NEW AND MUCH MORE COOPERATIVE GOVERNOR TO BE INSTALLED BY LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE. HE BELIEVES THIS WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR A MORE FLEXIBLE POLICY TOWARD THE ADMISSION OF FOREIGNERS INTO EAST TIMOR.

4. I SAID THAT THE ADMISSION OF CRS OR SOME SIMILAR PERSONNEL WOULD BE MOST USEFUL. HOWEVER, OVER THE LONGER RUN I WOULD HOPE THE GOI WOULD MOVE TOWARD READMITTING ICRC PERSONNEL. I RECOGNIZED THE PAST DIFFICULTIES, BUT THE ICRC HAD GREATER IMPACT IN CIRCLES WHICH WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDONESIA THAN DID THE CRS. I SUGGESTED THE GOI BEGIN EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING ICRC ACTIVITIES IN EAST TIMOR DURING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO INDONESIA BY ICRC HEAD HAYE. MURDANI SAID THAT GETTING APPROVAL FOR ICRC VISITS WOULD BE FAR MORE DIFFICULT GIVEN THE HISTORY OF THAT ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES IN EAST TIMOR. HOWEVER, HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO TO GET A DIALOGUE STARTED.

MASTERS

SECRET

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